

inkblot

# **INKBLOT**

Materials & Methods

Copyright Christian Wong 2020  
San Francisco, California, USA

## Inkblot

Inkblot is a new method of art using modern tools (computer, printer and image software) and traditional mediums (canvas and paper).

The power of inkblot is rooted in its simplicity and accessibility— virtually anyone can make inkblot art with basic household tools. It allows artists like myself (somewhat lazy, frugal and bad at drawing) to create art with complex imagery and realistic objects.

I technically created my first inkblot in 2017 but the images were blurry and distorted. It took three years of trial and error to create really nice inkblots and I wrote this book to share inkblot methodology.

Concept: Transfer images from a computer to medium using transparency sheets.

Purpose: Step-by-step tutorial on the basic method of inkblot.

## Step 1: Image

Take a photo or screenshot/snip of an object.

### Photo tips

Background: Choosing a solid green or white background will help with image editing.

Lighting: The best lighting mimics a bright & foggy/overcast day.

### Snipping tips

Background: Solid white background will help with image editing.

Image sources: Any internet image is usable. Consider using image searches, movie stills, Wikipedia images and blog images.

Pixel: Low pixel quality will limit the size of your inkblot. Try to choose images with high pixilation.





photos

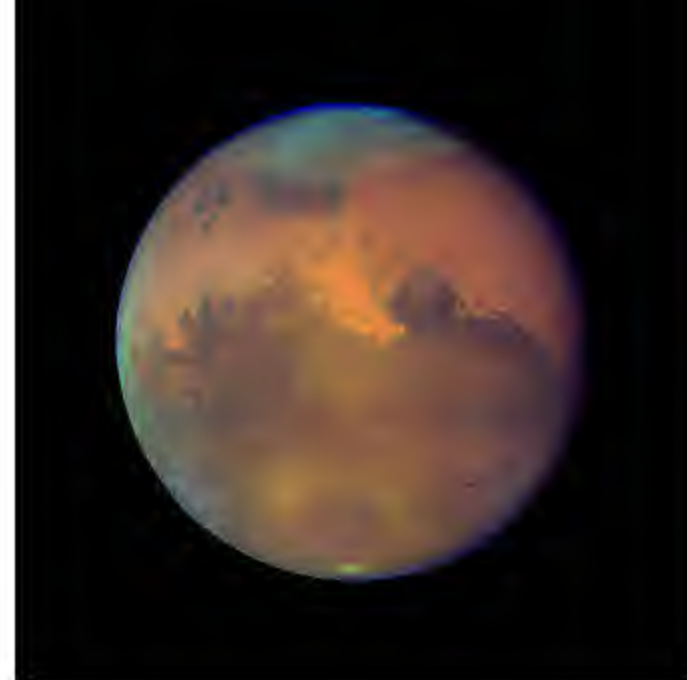


image snip



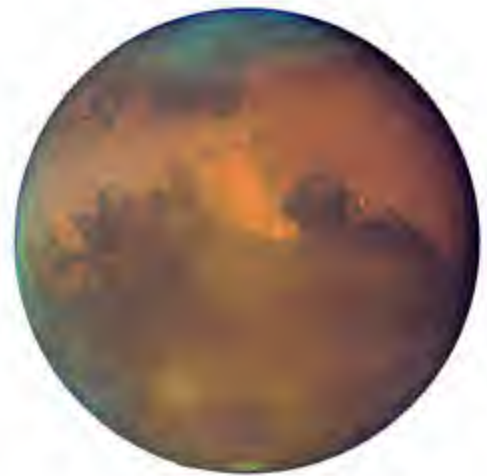
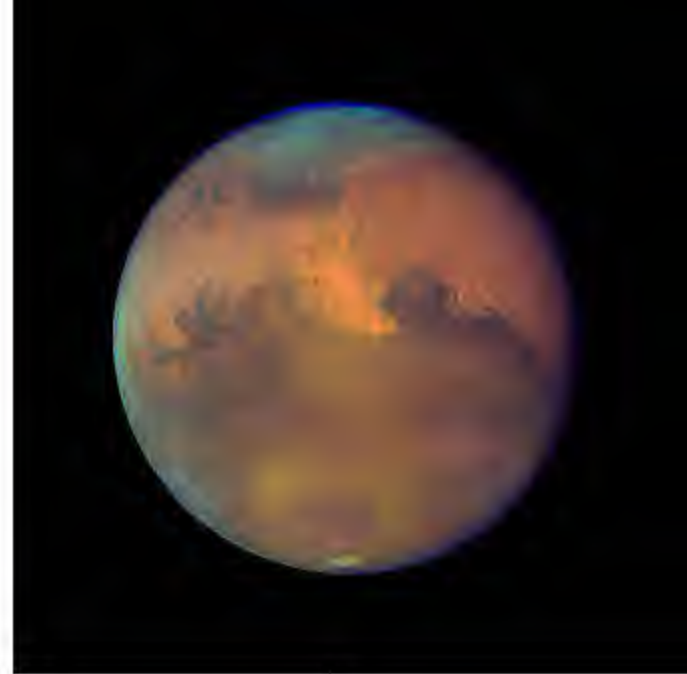
## **Step 2: Image editing**

Use image editing software to isolate your object of choice.

### **Image editing tips**

Corel: I use Corel Photo Editor (\$50). It's affordable and has all the essential tools required for inkblots. There's also a lot of free image editing software online.

Alternative: You can skip the image editing step if your image has a completely white background. I sometimes use the manual exposure settings on my camera to generate completely white backgrounds. Also, some internet images have complete white backgrounds.



### **Step 3: Printing on transparency sheets**

Print your edited image on a transparency sheet using an inkjet printer.

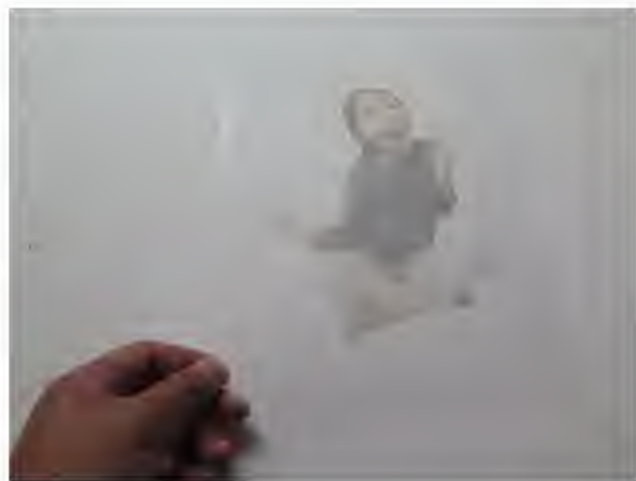
#### Printing tips

Transparency sheets: I prefer using thicker sheets. Thicker sheets are very reusable—just soak the sheets in water + Windex after you're done inkblotting & hang them to dry with a binder clip.

Excess ink: Wipe away any excess ink that may have accumulated on the edges of the transparency sheet.

Reverse image: The image will be reversed after printing and inkblotting. Reverse the image before printing to create a non-reversed inkblot.





## **Step 4: Priming the medium**

Choose your medium: Canvas or Watercolor paper.

Prime your medium with water using a spray bottle.

### Priming tips

Saturation: Evenly saturate your medium with water.

Oversaturation, undersaturation or uneven saturation will result in blurred inkblot images. I use my hands to spread water over the medium and check for moisture.

Excess moisture: Wipe away excess moisture immediately before applying your inkblot in the next step.

Surface: Place the medium on a hard flat surface for the best results. I use a 4' x 5' sheet of thick plexiglass for all my inkblots.



Use a smooth flat surface



Spray medium with water



Evenly spread water over medium



Wipe excess water immediately  
before inkblot application

## **Step 5: Inkblot on medium**

Apply your printed transparency sheet face-down on the medium.

### **Inkblot tips**

Application: It is important to firmly press on the transparency sheet to allow for a full image transfer onto your medium. I typically use one hand to secure the transparency sheet while using my other hand to firmly rub the sheet with a rag.

Don't slip: Don't let your transparency sheet move while inkblotting. Any movement will lead to a distorted inkblot image.





Use one hand to secure your transparency.



Use your other hand to firmly press & rub the image with a rag.



Lift the transparency sheet to expose the inkblot.

### **Step 6: Repeat**

Repeat steps 1 – 5 if you wish to have multiple inkblots on your medium.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

## Step 7: Sealer

Use sealer to protect your finished product.

### Sealer tips

Mod Podge: I typically use matte Mod Podge to seal my completed inkblot.

Polyurethane: Polyurethane is a possible sealer, but I typically stay away from chemical sealers because many are toxic and not eco-friendly.

Laundry: Do not wash your inkblots in the laundry machine unless you're using fabric inks/dyes to inkblot. My inkblot grocery bags are water-resistant with Mod Podge.

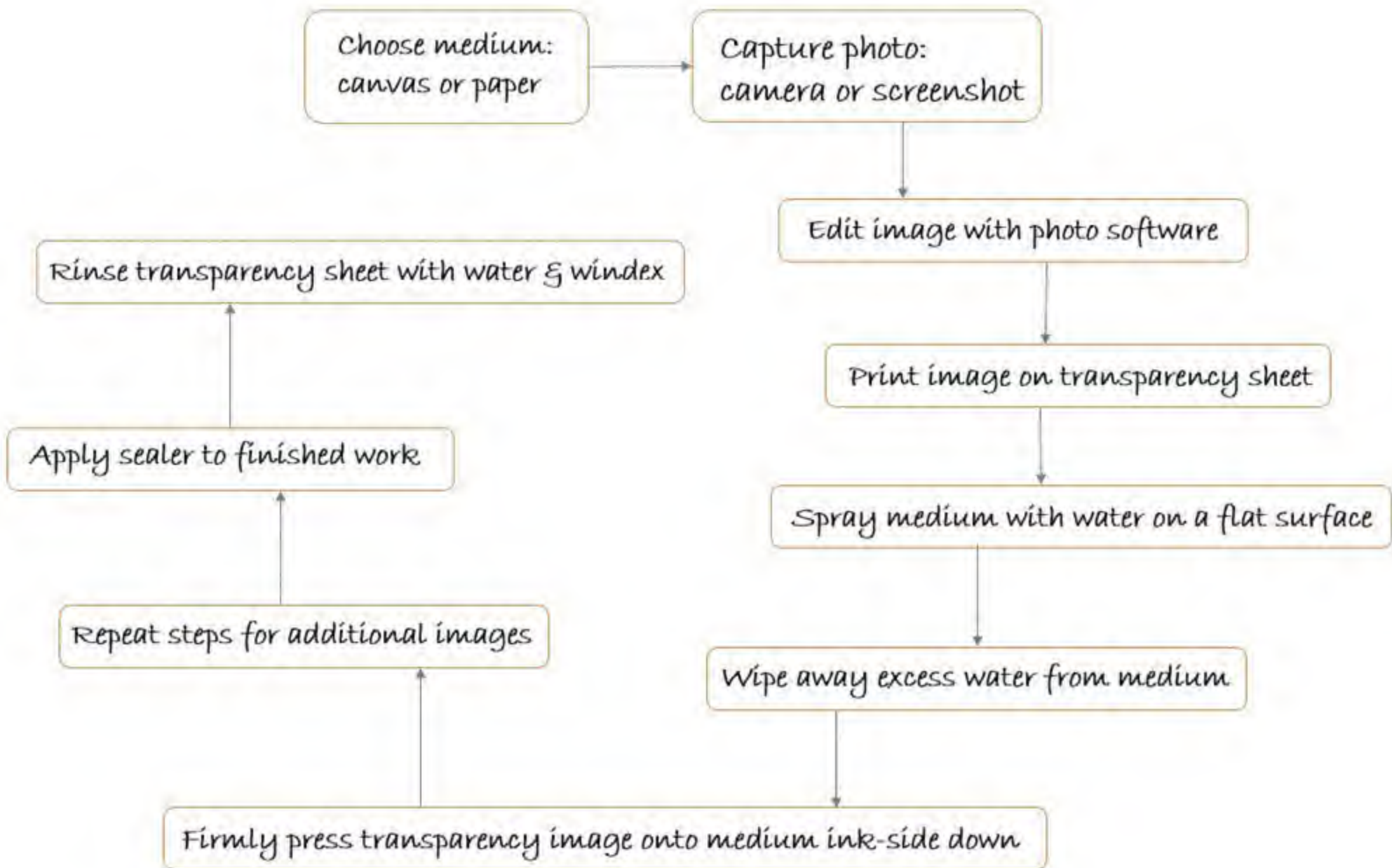




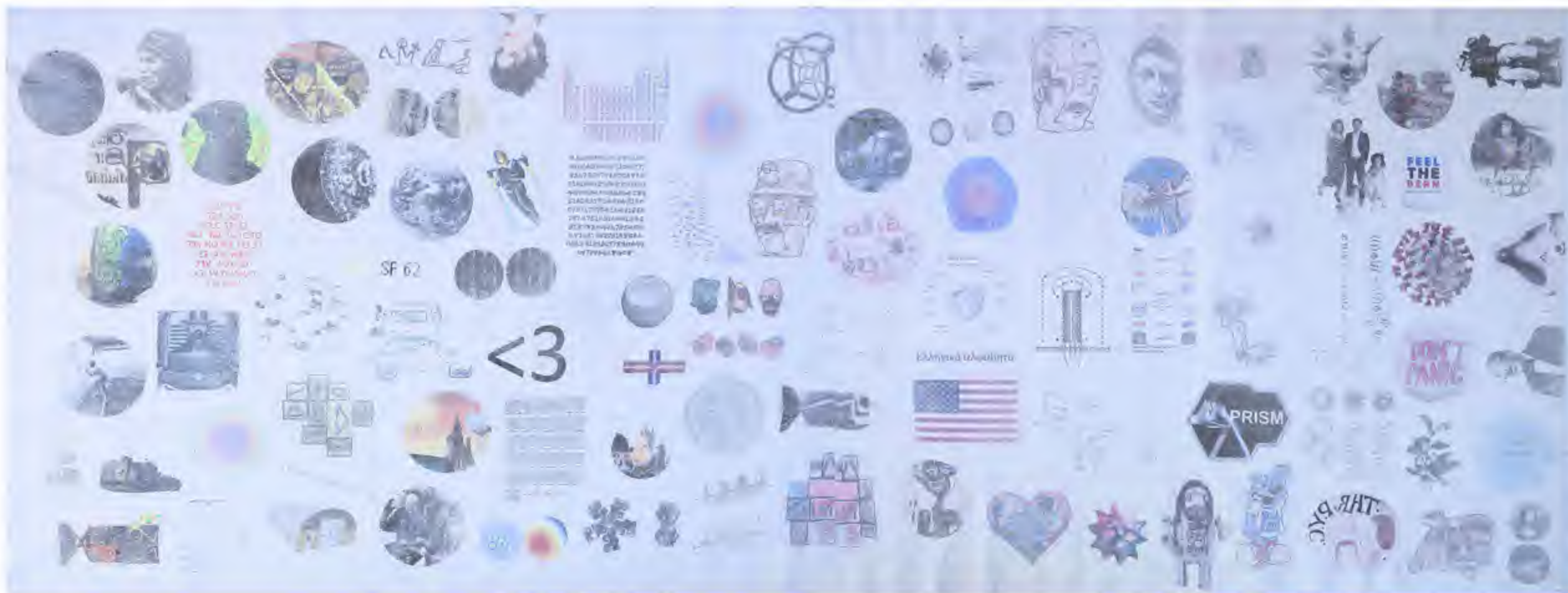
Eco-friendly sealers



Chemical sealers



## Inkblot examples



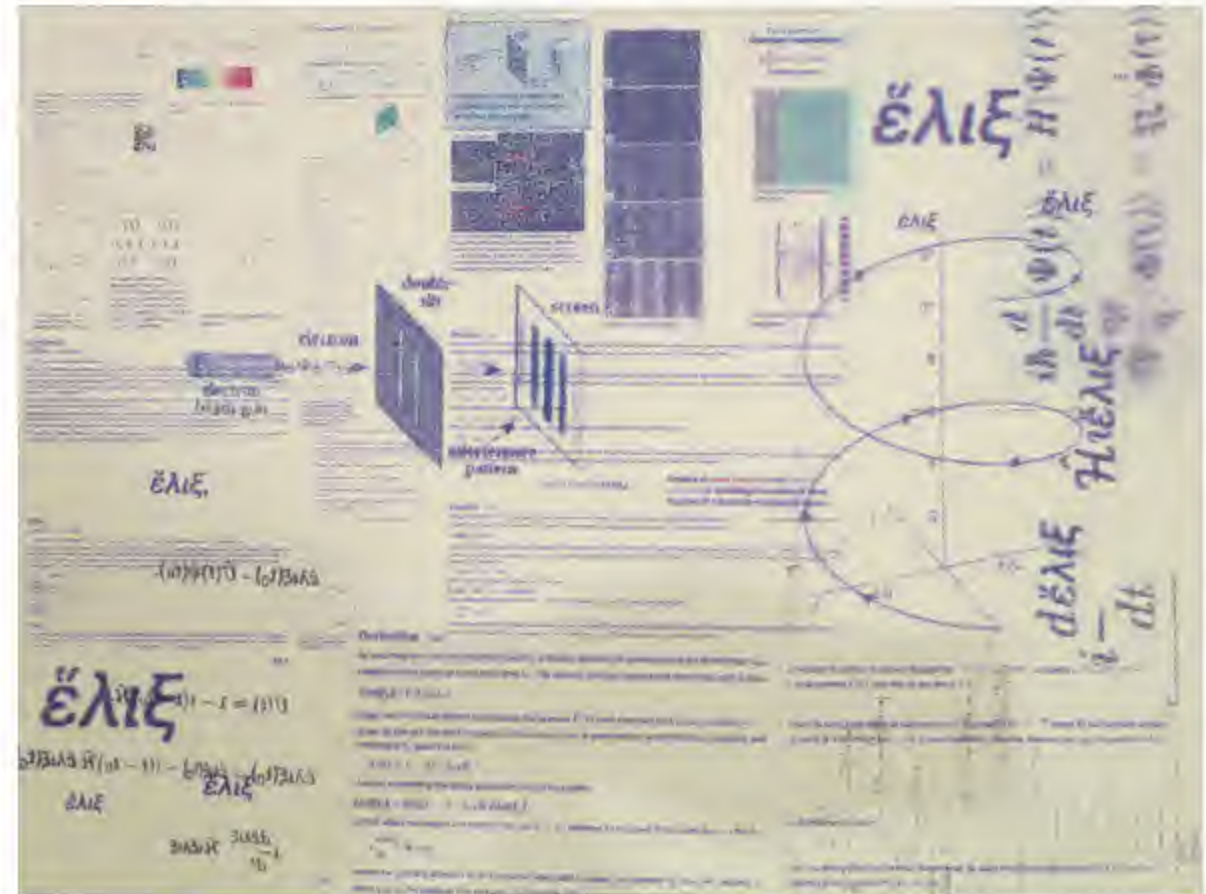
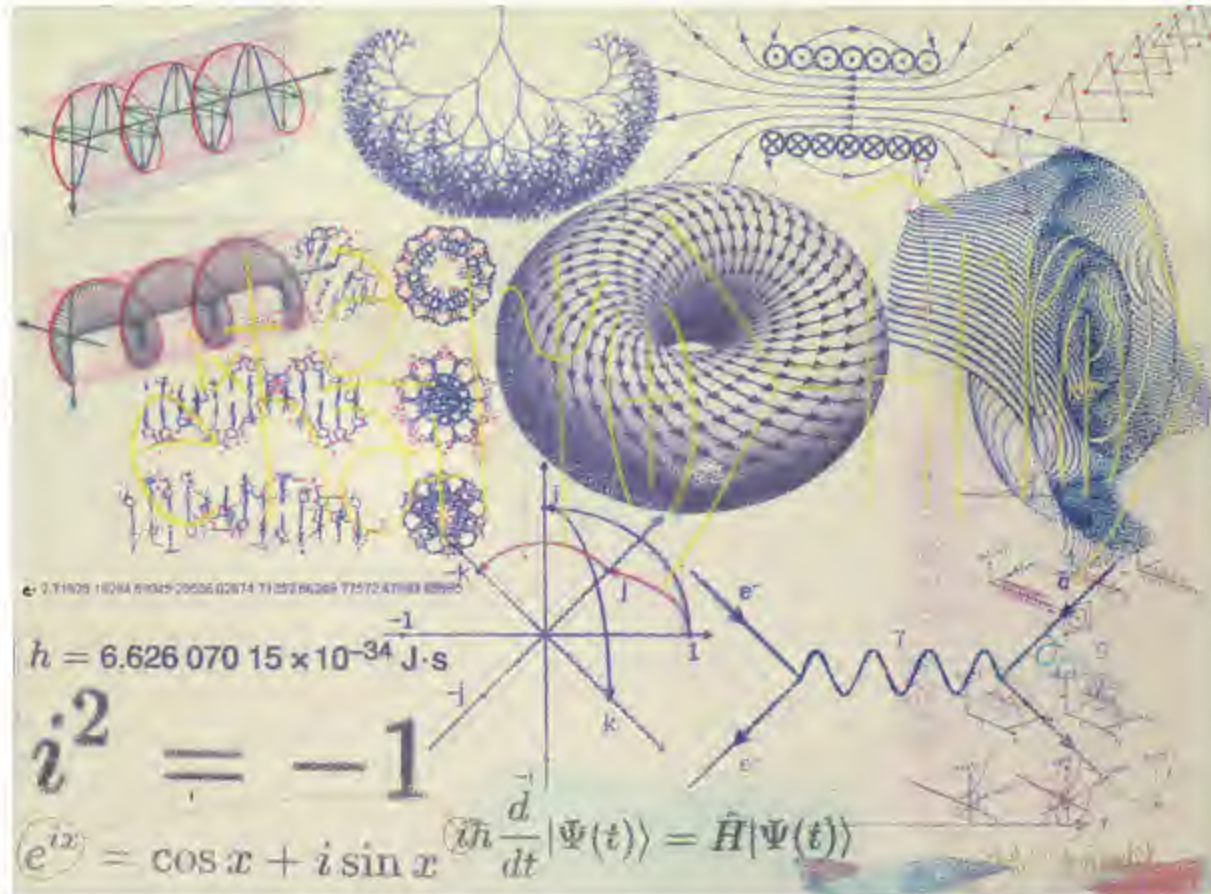
Inkblot on canvas; 5 feet x 15 feet





Inkblot on canvas bag





Inkblots on watercolor paper; 20" x 30"





Inkblots on watercolor paper  
 (+ crayon)  
 20" x 30"



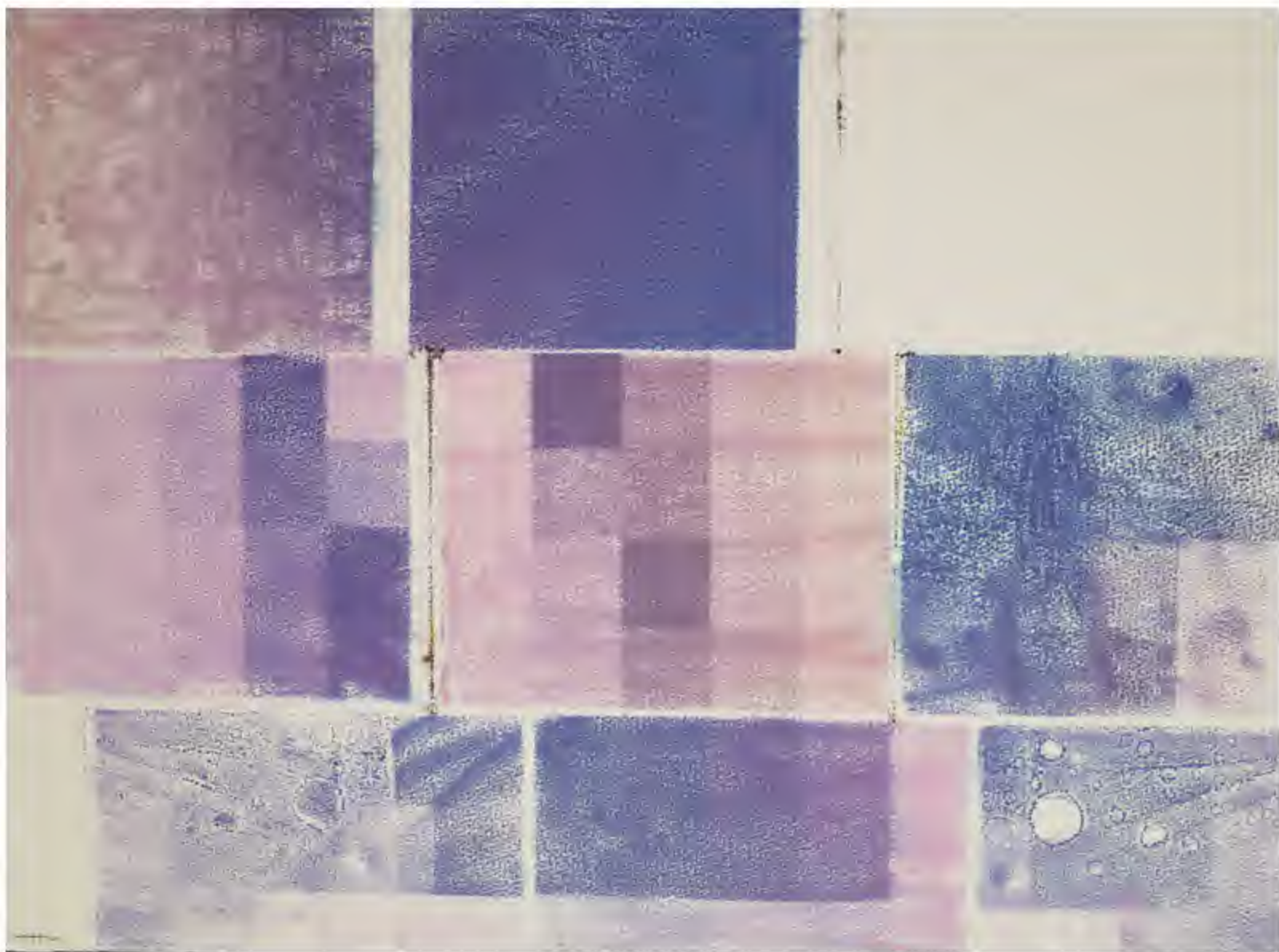
Inkblot on watercolor paper  
(+ charcoal)  
20" x 30"





Inkblot on glossy paper  
8" x 10"





Pixel Inkblot on  
Watercolor paper  
20" x 30"



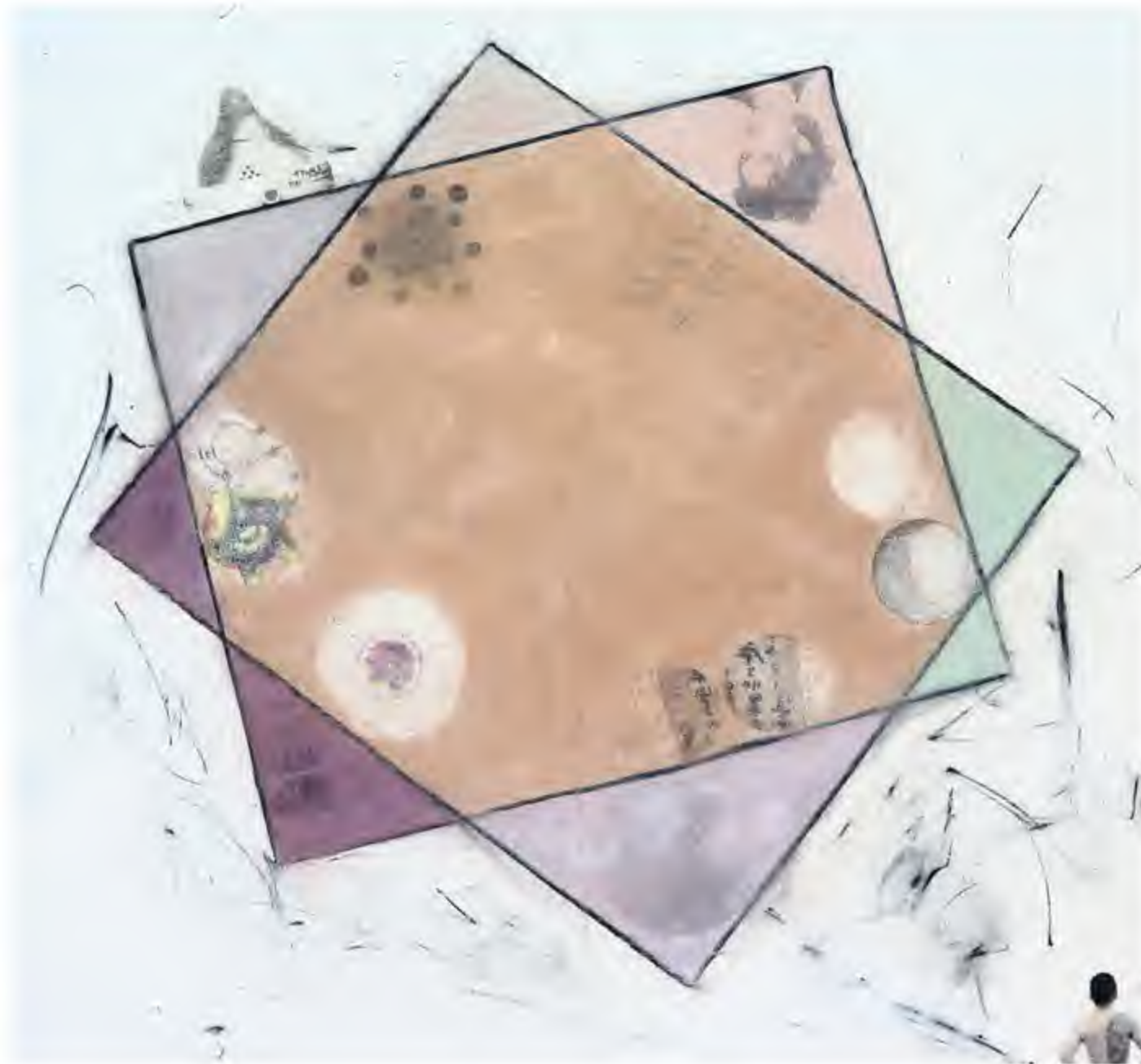




Inkblot on canvas  
(+ charcoal and crayon)  
5' x 6'

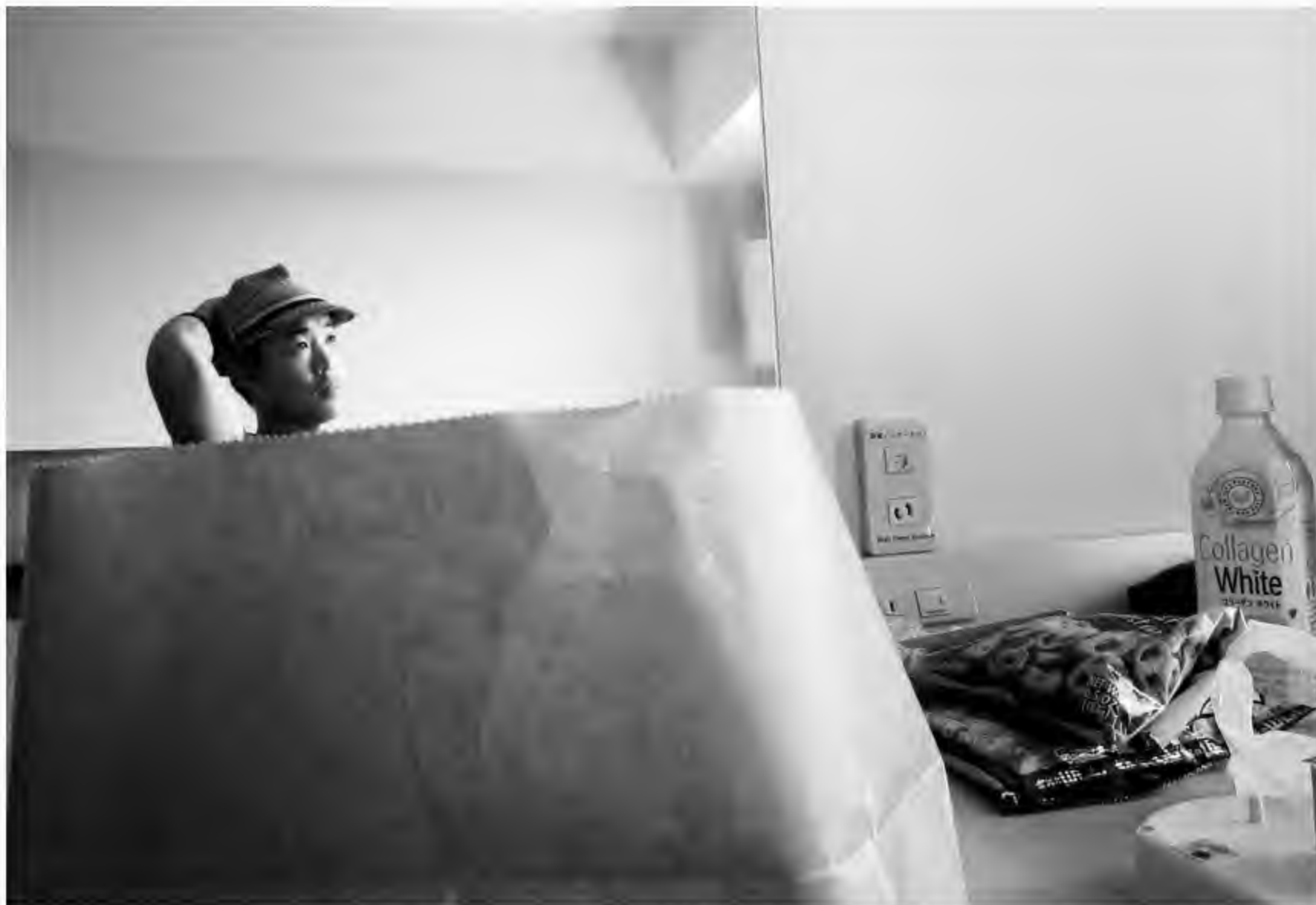


Inkblot on canvas  
(+ marker)  
5' x 6'



Inkblot on canvas  
(+ charcoal, mineral oil, pigment)  
5' x 5'





**CHRISTIAN WONG IS  
AN ARTIST LIVING IN  
SAN FRANCISCO WITH  
HIS TWO BEAUTIFUL  
DAUGHTERS AND  
GORGEOUS WIFE.**

**HE ENJOYS CREATING  
INNOVATIVE METHODS  
OF ARTISTIC  
EXPRESSION BY  
FUSING SCIENTIFIC  
METHODOLOGY WITH  
AESTHETIC  
PHILOSOPHY AND  
OBSCURE  
EXPERIMENTATION.**